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COMMITTEE AGAINST TORTURE

Tenth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 153rd MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 30 April 1993, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. VOYAME

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GE.93-13547 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS ACTIVITIES (agenda item 10) (continued) (CAT/C/X/CRP.1/Add.1, 2, 3, and 11-16, CAT/C/X/CRP.4, CAT/C/X/CRP.6)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to examine the remainder of the draft report, starting with document CAT/C/X/CRP.1/Add.1.

2. Mr. SORENSEN thought it might be useful to include a reference to his report to the Committee on the work of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture.

3. Mr. BURNS (Rapporteur) said there was no need to add another section; note could simply be taken of that report at the end of paragraph 4.

4. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.1/Add.1, as amended, was adopted.

Chapter II - Action by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (CAT/C/X/CRP.1/Add.2)

5. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.1/Add.2 was adopted.

Chapter III - Submission of reports of States parties under article 19 of the Convention (CAT/C/X/CRP.1/Add.3)

6. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.1/Add.3 was adopted.

Chapter IV - Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 19 of the Convention

Canada (CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.11)

7. Mr. BRUNI (Secretary of the Committee) read out the conclusions.

8. Mr. SORENSEN said that the word "doctors" in paragraph 27 of the report should be replaced by "medical personnel".

9. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.11, as amended, was adopted.

Panama (CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.12)

10. Mr. SORENSEN said that a date in paragraph 2 needed to be corrected in some language versions, from 20 December 1991 to 20 December 1989. He would also like the secretariat to check the date of 21 December 1992, in paragraph 18 of the report.

11. Mr. BRUNI (Secretary of the Committee) read out the conclusions of the report in English, re-numbering the paragraphs.

12. Mr. DIPANDA MOUELLE, referring to the last sentence of new paragraph 30 (formerly 28), proposed that the words "of the individual" should be deleted from the phrase "... the highest possible protection of human rights of the individual".

13. The CHAIRMAN said he was surprised that the last sentence of the new paragraph 31 referred only to article 22 of the Convention, without mentioning article 21. He proposed that the omission should be rectified.

14. Mr. LORENZO thought that an element which had not been brought to the delegation's attention at the time when its report had been considered could not be included in the Committee's report.

15. Mr. SORENSEN recalled that Panama had requested that the Committee's conclusions should be sent to it in writing. He did not himself see any difficulty in making a correction at the current stage.

16. Mr. BURNS (Rapporteur) endorsed Mr. Lorenzo's view.

17. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.12 was adopted without the proposed amendment.

Hungary (CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.13)

18. Mr. BRUNI (Secretary of the Committee) read out the conclusions.

19. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.13 was adopted, subject to a number of stylistic and spelling corrections.

Sweden (CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.14)

20. Mr. BRUNI (Secretary of the Committee) read out the conclusions.

21. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.14 was adopted.

China (CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.15)

22. The CHAIRMAN referring to the French text of paragraph 6 suggested that the word "reconciliée" should be replaced by "conciliée". In paragraph 19, where the imposition of the death penalty was mentioned twice, he would like the phrase "sentences to the death penalty" to be used the first time and "the imposition of the death penalty" the second time. In paragraph 27, the figures for the year 1991 should be given.

23. Mr. BURNS (Rapporteur) asked the secretariat to check the number of death sentences and executions for the year 1992.

24. Mr. BRUNI (Secretary of the Committee) read out the conclusions.

25. Mr. BURNS (Rapporteur) said he would let Mr. Bruni have some purely grammatical changes.

26. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.15 was adopted, in the light of the above comments.

Spain (CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.16)

27. Mr. BRUNI (Secretary of the Committee) read out the conclusions of document CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.16.

28. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.2/Add.16 was adopted.

Chapter VI - Consideration of communications under article 22 of the Convention (CAT/C/X/CRP.4)

29. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the paragraphs should be numbered.

30. Mr. BURNS (Rapporteur) proposed that the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph should be expanded and amended as follows: "After having requested and received comments from the State party, the Committee decided at its tenth session to request more information from the alleged victim".

31. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.4, as amended, was adopted.

Annexes (CAT/C/X/CRP.6)

32. Document CAT/C/X/CRP.6 was adopted.

33. Mr. BURNS (Rapporteur) said he wished to make a general comment on the annual report. He endorsed the proposal made by Mr. Lorenzo at the previous meeting with a view to standardizing the Committee's conclusions on each country. Roughly speaking, there were three groups of countries: those which fully respected the provisions of the Convention, those where the situation was still capable of improvement and, lastly, those which had difficulties in implementing the Convention. If a standard introductory paragraph was adopted in each of those three cases, countries would know immediately to which group they belonged.

34. The CHAIRMAN supported that proposal and also suggested that, in future, the Committee's report should be shorter, thus making its contents easier to absorb. On the other hand, he proposed that the conclusions for each country should be more detailed and should include the main points of the Committee's observations. That method had already been adopted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and he asked the secretariat to make some of the reports of that Committee available at the next session, for use as a possible model.

35. Mr. LORENZO proposed that the section containing conclusions should be entitled "Conclusions and recommendations" for all countries.

36. It was so decided.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS (continued)

37. Mr. SORENSEN proposed that the Committee should send to those countries whose reports had been considered not only its own report, but also the summary records of the relevant meetings.

38. Mr. BRUNI (Secretary of the Committee) said the summary records were not always published immediately after the session; that was true of the original language version and even more so for the translated versions. That might make it difficult to put Mr. Sorensen's proposal into effect.

39. The CHAIRMAN asked the secretariat to consider the possibility nevertheless.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

40. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared the session closed.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.